

BLOOMINGTON INNOVATORS LOCAL COMPANIES THAT INSPIRE

During the 1960s, Bloomington experienced a population boom as more and more businesses moved into the area. The City's slogan at the time was "All the businesses that will fit."

The fact that many major companies, including Toro, Donaldson, HeathPartners, Quality Bicycle Products (QBP) and ATMI LifeSciences, not to mention a booming hospitality industry, call Bloomington home, has earned the city more jobs per capita than either St. Paul or Minneapolis. Today, Bloomington's slogan could be "All the innovation that will fit."

A number of Bloomington businesses are breaking new ground – literally and figuratively – including ATMI LifeSciences, QBP and tenKsolar. These businesses are leading the way in their fields, making Bloomington the place to be for creative companies.



THE "ULTRACLEAN" LEADERS

ATMI LifeSciences, producer of single-use disposable storage systems, mixers and bioreactors, is a Belgian company that just completed expansion of its Bloomington manufacturing facility on 10851 Louisiana Avenue. The expansion establishes Bloomington as the North American hub for ATMI's production and marketing of its bio-pharmaceutical products.

ATMI's product line includes a wide range of ultra clean, sterile packaging designed for the safe handling and storage of pharmaceutical liquids and powders.

According to CEO Doug Neugold, new jobs created by the Bloomington expansion range from assembly and testing to product engineering and manufacturing.



THE SOLAR ENERGY DESIGNERS

Talk about innovative! **tenKsolar**, located at 9549 Penn Avenue South, is a research and development company that has more than 40 patents filed around its unique solar panel systems.

According to CEO Joel Cannon, tenKsolar's cell optimizing architecture makes its solar panel systems more efficient in their ability to generate energy from all available light, whether direct, diffused or reflected. The solar panels tenKsolar creates are designed to be lightweight, yet durable enough to handle 90 mph straight-line winds.

tenKsolar is currently a finalist for Red Herring's North America 100 Award, a prestigious list honoring the year's most promising private technology ventures in the country.

THE BICYCLE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

As North America's largest bike parts supplier, **QBP** was recently featured in a *Minnesota Business* magazine article about Minnesota's booming bike economy.

As the leader in the bike parts industry, QBP supplies more than 5,000 dealers worldwide from their state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly distribution center in west Bloomington.

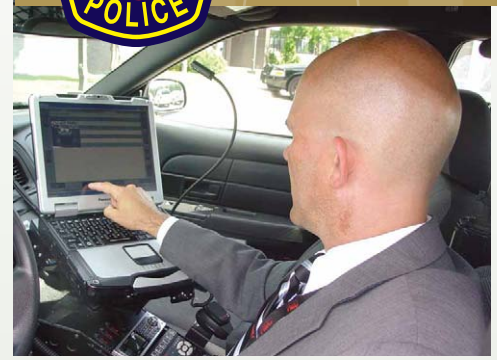
What do QBP, ATMI LifeSciences and tenKsolar have in common? They are all growing businesses thriving right in our own backyards – proving that innovation is alive and well in Bloomington.



If you know of an innovative Bloomington business breaking new ground in design or sustainability, contact Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



ON PATROL



LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION!

The Bloomington Police Department recently acquired Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras for two of its patrol cars.

The ALPR cameras have the ability to scan thousands of license plates per shift with the purpose of flagging down license plates that have expired or have been associated with a crime. The cameras automatically scan license plates as officers patrol Bloomington streets. If there's a match, an alarm will sound. Once a match is detected, the officer calls the license plate into Police Dispatch to verify the vehicle was stolen or involved in a crime.

"The technology allows officers to focus on driving violations or crimes in progress, while the ALPR system runs plates," Sergeant Mark Elliott said.

"It really makes our officers more efficient during their shift."

For more information, call Sergeant Mark Elliott at 952-563-8628.

EXCELLENT PARTICIPATION BLOOMINGTON'S 2010 CENSUS RATE NUMBERS ARE IN



Bloomington's mail participation rate in the 2010 Census was 84 percent, matching the 2000 Census mail participation rate and placing Bloomington in the top 20 cities nationwide with populations over 50,000.

Minnesota's statewide participation rate was 80 percent, trailing only Wisconsin at 81 percent. Higher mail participation rates reduce the costs of door-to-door census taking activities and help ensure residents are not undercounted. An accurate count is vital to ensure the City receives its fair share of resources and political representation.

City level population figures from the 2010 Census are anticipated early in the second quarter of 2011.

RAMBLER REDO SERIES UPDATING TO CREATE SPACE

Is your family growing too big for your rambler? Perhaps you just want a little more space, but don't want to sell your home in a down market? The answer may be to build upon the space you already have.

The Rambler Redo series will show you how to address some of the more common updating and remodeling issues in one of the coolest and most common home in Bloomington: the rambler.

The *illustration at right*, created by Nguyen Architects, shows a rambler without any additions or major changes to its original 1950s - 1960s layout.

Over the next few *Briefing* issues, you will see how this typical rambler home

can be drastically transformed through creating new spaces that will not only add square footage, but value, to your home.

Kitchen addition

Families spend a lot of time in the kitchen, yet the narrow galley-style of most rambler kitchens isn't always conducive to large family gatherings. Expanding the existing footprint of a kitchen to create space for entertaining will be explored.

Exterior and entry addition

A porch addition is a great way to add space and curb appeal to a rambler. Updating an entryway would create a dedicated seating area and added protection from weather.



Building up

Adding a second story is probably one of the more dramatic changes that can be made to a home. An upcoming issue will explore design options that add more square footage to your home without sacrificing valuable yard space.

Look for these ideas and more in detail in upcoming issues of the *Briefing*.